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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you resolution 01/1999 of the House of People's Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the war of aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia and on Security Council resolution 1227 (1999), issued on 1 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Resolution 01/1999 of the House of People's Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the war of aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia and on Security Council resolution 1227 (1999)

Recalling the decision passed by the House on 13 May 1998 on the unprovoked aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia in which the House resolved, first, that every effort should be exerted peacefully and diplomatically to restore Ethiopia's sovereignty and to regain its territorial integrity, and secondly, should that peaceful effort fail, that the appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the restoration of Ethiopia's dignity, sovereignty and the inviolability of its territorial integrity by whatever means available to the Ethiopian people,

Expressing its deep indignation at the atrocious and unforgivable crime committed by the authorities in Eritrea by invading our country, forcing the diversion of our attention from our major preoccupation of waging war against poverty and having made an effort to poison relations between the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Commending the Executive Branch for all the effort, under very difficult circumstances of intransigence by the aggressor and lack of sufficient concern by those who could have done more for peace, to resolve the crisis peacefully and for the goodwill it has demonstrated, reflecting the civility and decency which is the tradition of our people, to cooperate in good faith with all third parties that have made their good offices available to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the crisis,

Commending also the Executive Branch for the necessary preparations it made, parallel with the peace effort, to enhance the capability of the nation for exercising effectively its inherent right to self-defence, should that be necessary,

Expressing its profound satisfaction with the way the Ethiopian people as a whole have responded with admirable resolve to the noble call to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country,

Expressing also its deep sadness and anguish at Security Council resolution 1227 (1999) of 10 February 1999, most particularly paragraph 7 thereof, which the Ethiopian people as a whole see as discriminatory injustice and totally inappropriate,

Expressing further its pride in the Organization of African Unity for having stood up for due respect of the principles of international law and for its honesty and transparency, attributes which this crisis has shown so clearly are not available in abundance,

Regretting very deeply that the Security Council made a historic and grave mistake, reminiscent of the injustice done to Ethiopia by the League of Nations, by equating the victim of aggression, Ethiopia, with the aggressor Eritrea,

1. Expresses, on behalf of the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, its deep anger at the injustice done to Ethiopia by the Security Council through its resolution 1227 (1999), which was unjust and totally inappropriate;

2. Deplores the attempt to deny Ethiopia, the victim of aggression, which in that capacity should, at the minimum, have been accorded the understanding and sympathy of the Security Council, the right to self-defence which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and sanctioned by international law;

3. Affirms, on behalf of the Ethiopian people, that, while Ethiopia shall always be committed, with all the necessary resolve, to principles of international law governing inter-State relations and to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, it shall, on the other hand, accept no unfair, unjustified or inappropriate restrictions imposed on its right to self-defence, which all self-respecting nations take for granted;

4. Expresses its dismay, on behalf of Ethiopia, a founding Member of the United Nations, at attempts that have been made that could have a negative impact on the faith and trust that the Ethiopian people have in the United Nations;

5. Appeals to the Security Council to reconsider and redress the injustice done to Ethiopia, a victim of Eritrean aggression, by resolution 1227 (1999);

6. Appeals further to the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities by taking the appropriate measure against the aggressor, who not only has imposed war on Ethiopia through invasion, but has also caused bloodshed and suffering to hundreds of thousands of civilians;

7. Calls on all those who have faith and hope in multilateralism and in the promises held by the United Nations not to allow double standards to reign supreme in decisions adopted by international organizations and to combat partiality in the application of principles of international law;

8. Pays homage to our continental organization, the Organization of African Unity, for having made Africa proud and for upholding and defending principles of international law and norms of civilized behaviour, without which, though the strong may have other recourse, the weak would have no chance of survival and no support for their existence;

9. Applauds the courage and heroism demonstrated by our defence forces to protect and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country and the patriotic fervour of all our people inside the country and in the diaspora, shown at this critical time for restoring the dignity of the nation and for defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia.